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LETTER DATED 22 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Please find enclosed the second submission of the Government of the United States of America in accordance with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 771 (1992).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Edward J. PERKINS

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Annex

Note verbale dated 22 October 1992 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to enclose the second submission by the United States to the United Nations Security Council of information on violations of humanitarian law being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The submission is made in accordance with paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 771 (1992) and paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 780 (1992).

Enclosure

10/22/92, 10 a.m.

Supplemental United States submission of information to the United Nations Security Council in accordance with paragraph 5 of resolution 771 (1992) and paragraph 1 of resolution 780 (1992)

This report supplements the previous United States submission of information pursuant to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 771 (1992) relating to the violations of humanitarian law, including grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. We have tried not to duplicate information provided to us from other countries, which we expect will be submitting their own reports by the 6 November deadline in resolution 780 (1992).

Recent reports out of the former Yugoslavia reaffirm the need for further investigative work, such as that to be done by the newly established United Nations War Crimes Commission. For example, reporters have been unable to locate any former prisoners of the camp at Omarska; this raises concerns for the prisoners' safety. In addition, the United States is continuing to receive reports of forced deportations. We strongly believe that these reports require expeditious investigation, so that substantiated information can be obtained about the persons responsible. While interviews with refugees once they have left the territory of the former Yugoslavia do provide valuable information, the international community needs to conduct investigations within the territory of the former Yugoslavia to assemble a more complete picture. Further, there is a need for forensic evidence regarding the various allegations of mass atrocities. The United States will pursue such information actively and will continue to urge other Governments to do so as well.

In accordance with paragraph 1 of resolution 780 (1992), the United States will submit additional supplemental reports when other relevant information comes into its possession.

As in the initial United States report, the notations at the end of each of the following items indicate the source from which the information was drawn.

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA: GRAVE BREACHES OF THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION

SECOND SUBMISSION

Wilful killing

21 September — Serb forces with automatic rifles about six miles outside Travnik fired on Muslim refugees who were leaving Bosanski Petrovac. "They shot at us from the forest beside the road," according to a 21-year-old man. "Four were killed in my truck and three were wounded." He gave the names of five relatives, all civilians, whom he said he saw dragged from their homes by Serbian soldiers in Bjelaj on 21 September and shot point-blank.

Other refugees from Bjelaj said they believed that more than 100 men and boys were killed in the village over a four-day period ending on 22 September. (Reuters)

27 August — Croatian paramilitary forces attacked a convoy of buses carrying over a hundred Serbian women and children, according to a peasant woman from Goradze who was in the convoy. She said the Croats killed 53 and left about 50 wounded. She escaped by hiding under some bodies. Her son, one of two "Serbian Republic" soldiers with the convoy, was badly wounded but survived. (Department of State)

21 August — More than 200 men and boys were massacred by Bosnian Serb police on a narrow mountain track at a place known as Varjanta, near the confluence of the Ugar and Ilomska rivers about 15 miles north of Travnik, according to at least three reputed survivors.

Semir, a 24-year-old man, told reporters that he was one of the last off the bus. "I saw three Serb policemen standing there, and in front of them there were big pools of blood. I decided at that moment to jump. I rolled a long way down, until I was caught on a tree. I heard shooting up above for about an hour after that. Bodies were tumbling past me. There were a lot of them."

"Cerni," a 31-year-old Muslim described how the prisoners were taken off the buses. "I jumped as soon as they started. I protected my head and arms and tumbled down. When I stopped, the other bodies were falling on me. The blood was all over. The other people ... were all killed at this place."

Semir, who lost a brother and a 16-year-old nephew during this incident, said he had recognized several of the killers because they were from his home village, Corakovo. He recognized two brothers in particular - naming them as among those who had rounded up this group of Muslims in Corakovo.

A third witness threw himself over the edge of the cliff as his guard turned to speak to another soldier. He had seen a Serbian soldier put a pistol in the mouths of several men and fire. (Department of State; The Washington Post; The New York Times; Reuters)

24 July — A Muslim locksmith, who was interned at Keraterm camp in north-western Bosnia, reported that on 24 July Serb guards with automatic weapons systematically had killed as many as 160 men who were locked inside an enclosure known as Room 3. The locksmith and three other Muslims imprisoned in an adjacent room said that another 50 prisoners were killed the next morning and that the killing continued the next night against an outside wall. "In the morning, they would collect the remains in a wheelbarrow - brains, blood, pieces of flesh." (The Washington Post)

20 July — A 31-year-old Bosnian Muslim refugee stated that on 20 July all the men living in Biscani were called out of their houses and forced to lie down in the centre of town on asphalt. Serb soldiers beat them with iron bars, and forced them to sing patriotic Serbian songs. The most prominent women in the village, about 100, were brought together. As the women were told to disperse, they were shot in the back. The bodies of the women lay in the road for four days until Serb trucks came to collect them. (Department of State)

2 July — An 82-year-old Bosnian Muslim refugee from the village of Prhovo, near Kljuc, described how the Serbian army came to his village, herded the people together in the centre of the town, and called out names from a list. Three or four soldiers began to execute those whose names were called, murdering the women and children as well as the able-bodied men. There appeared to be no pattern to those selected for killing. The soldiers then set the village on fire. (Department of State)

June — A 22-year-old man who had been interned in Kereterm camp in June told New York Newsday reporter Roy Gutman that for three days he and other prisoners buried about 300 men and women from seven Muslim villages south of Prijedor. One out of every 10 prisoners selected at random told the reporter that he had been beaten or tortured, or had witnessed killings. (Department of State)

June — A 31-year-old Bosnian Muslim refugee from the village of Hambarez, near Prijedor, witnessed the execution of two Muslims in the village of Biscani. One was Emsoud Aliskovic, a cousin of the village chief of police. As she watched, one Serbian soldier took an ax to the prisoners' heads, then the flesh of their upper thighs. Next, the soldier dismembered the victims' arms and legs. (Department of State)

May-June — Between 2,000 and 3,000 Muslim men and women and children were murdered by Serb irregular forces near Brcko. Most of the killings reportedly occurred at a brick factory and a pig farm near Brcko, and were carried out by irregulars led by Selijko Raznjatovic ("Arcan") and Vojislav Sesselj. Witnesses claimed to have seen the spontaneous murders of up to 50 prisoners at a time. (Department of State 25 September statement; The Washington Post; USA Today; The Washington Times)

May-June — Alija Lujinovic, a 53-year-old Muslim traffic engineer from Brcko, on 3 May was captured by Serbian irregulars - two days after the Yugoslav army and irregular forces attacked Brcko. The following is part of his account:

3 May — The leader of the territorial defence force was killed by soldiers' jumping up and down on his torso.

5 May — About five soldiers killed about 20-25 people on the grass in front of the building in which they were detained by cutting their throats with knives.

7 May — He and up to 1,500 people were taken by bus to the port known as Luka, on the Sava River. During their 50 days at this facility, Lujinovic witnessed the following:

Some people who had already been beaten to death were brought in the trunks of cars and dumped in the middle of the warehouse.

Lujinovic personally had to help carry out people who had been beaten in the night and died from the beatings; the bodies were thrown into the river. The guards were drinking heavily and taking green tablets. "Then they were really wild."

He once saw about 15 corpses of young men, 18-30 years old, completely naked, with the genitals torn out. A guard threatened to use a scissors-like instrument on him.

He saw at least 30 people taken to the sewage canals outside the warehouse where their throats were cut.

In some cases, he saw a doctor who would slit the throats of young, healthy people, cut out their organs and pack them into plastic bags, and load the organs into a refrigerator truck.

In one case, the guards broke a prisoner's head with gun butts to spill the brains. They then called the dogs to eat the brains.

23 June — On 23 June, the guards came and started calling out names of people to be released. Lujinovic was not on the list, but after he walked over to a guard with whom he had been acquainted at a former job and pleaded his case, he was released. He also stated that by the time of his release, only 150 of the 1,500 people had survived the camp. (Department of State; Congress; New York Newsday)

Mid-May — A Muslim refugee, a butcher by trade and probably in his early forties, spent 27 days at Luka camp outside Brcko, during which time he saw a soldier drag a man out of his building and return after a short time with blood-soaked knife in one hand and the man's head in the other. The refugee discussed with a United States Foreign Service officer in Vienna, Austria, the lack of food - a piece of bread about every three days. He witnessed one woman in her mid-thirties die from starvation. (Department of State)

May — Serbian guards at Omarska camp selected seven or eight Muslim and Croat prisoners at random each night to be executed, according to a 53-year-old Muslim camp survivor identified as Hujca. The only apparent trait the victims shared was their muscular build. (New York Newsday)

20 April — Adil Umerovic, a Muslim, shot a young Serb male on a Goradze street for no apparent reason, according to a young Serbian woman who witnessed the killing. She said the Serb was an unarmed civilian who was handcuffed. (Department of State)

12-28 April — A 33-year-old Bosnian Muslim refugee - a machine technician by profession - from Sarajevo and her two children were interned in Manjaca camp near Banja Luka for 16 days. One day the guards questioned one mother in front of the others. The guards then raped the mother's seven-year-old daughter in front of the other women interned in Manjaca camp. This girl died soon afterward. (Department of State)

April-July Reporter Roy Gutman obtained testimony from refugees on mass graves:

> "Men mainly served for the collecting of dead bodies of their neighbours in surrounding villages and fields. A group of them during only one day collected 700 bodies and buried them in a mass grave. The location of the grave is next to the road leading towards the town of Prijedor - at the edge of woodland called Gaj in the vicinity of the Europa Inn."
>
> "In the Trnopolje settlement itself, there are mass graves almost next to each house (with) 5, 10 or 20 bodies."
>
> "During the active existence of the camp (Omarska), lasting three months, every day, 10 to 20 people were killed. Their bodies were transferred and partially or completely buried in the mine locations as follows: Jezero open pit, the old Tomasica mine, the new Ruvac open mine, the lake near the Mededa dam."
>
> "Witnesses estimate that about 3,000-5,000 people were buried ... (in) a mass grave ... around the town of Prijedor, which is located near the village of Koricani on the road leading from the town of Skender Vakuf towards the town of Travnik at the place known by the name Koricanska Stijena."
>
> "Reconnaissance units of the army of Bosnia and Herzegovina were eyewitnesses to the burial of about 750 people during only one day. Their bodies were placed by excavators into fortification facilities and trenches for cannons, which were previously removed. Newly captured civilians and many camp prisoners from refugee convoys coming from the towns of Prijedor, Banja Luka, Kljuc, Mrkonic Grad, and Skender Vakuf were killed."

April-July Imam Mustafa Mojkanovic of Bratunac was tortured before thousands of Muslim women, children and elderly at the town's soccer stadium, according to Imam Efardi Espahic of Tuzla. Serb guards ordered the cleric to cross himself. When Mojkanovic refused, they beat him, stuffed his mouth with sawdust and beer, and then slit his throat.

The Muslim mufti of Zagreb, Sevko Omarbasic, has said that by the end of July the Serbs had executed 37 imams. (New York Newsday)

Mid-April

Muslim soldiers removed Serbian corpses from the Drina Hotel in Gorazde to a nearby river. A former hotel worker said some of the corpses were mutilated, e.g., were missing hands, and she saw one with his eyes gouged out. (Department of State)

One Serb seized by the Muslims was name Zekovic. He was paraded naked through Gorazde by his captors and was forced to crawl on the asphalt and bark like a dog, according to an eyewitness. Then he was tortured mercilessly before being executed, according to some reports. (Department of State)

Adil's two brothers, Salko and Arif Umerovic, reportedly participated with him in the killing of other Serbs in Goradze. (Department of State)

Torture of prisoners

May-June — A 52-year-old Bosnian Muslim cleric, whom Serbian military police had arrested on 16 May and subsequently released, was picked up again on 29 or 30 May by a convoy of Serb militia; he had been hiding in the woods. He was interned in Omarska camp for 75 days, during which time he was beaten regularly until he bled. The cleric witnessed several public beatings and sexual torture in the camp. He said that several men had been forced by the guards to have intercourse with each other, and that guards cut off some prisoners' hands and penises as a punishment and to frighten the other men. (Department of State)

16 May — A 52-year-old Bosnian Muslim cleric from Bosanska Kostajnica was arrested on 16 May by Serbian military police. He was beaten by the guards with rifle butts, boots and police batons. Three ribs in his back and his chest bone were broken. All his upper front teeth were knocked out. (Department of State)

May — A 35-year-old Muslim refugee from Rudo, who was detained in Rudo camp with 21 other Bosnians, told a United States Foreign Service officer on 18 September that all of the men in his camp had been beaten regularly. Men would be taken from their room for interrogation and return disfigured, in some cases with ears, fingers or noses cut off. (Department of State)

May — Forty young women from the Muslim-populated town of Brezovo Polje, north of Sarajevo, were brutalized and repeatedly raped in May of this year by Serbian soldiers, according to the Zagreb weekly, Globus. The United States Consulate in Zagreb reported that the story had contained enough names, dates, places, and other specifics - including photographs of quoted victims - to appear credible. (Department of State)

Reporter Roy Gutman wrote that victims had told him preparations for the mass rape began early on the morning of 17 May, when Serb soldiers in army uniforms and masks piled out of their minivans and rounded up the Muslims of Brezovo Polje for "ethnic cleansing". About 1,000 women, children and elderly were packed into eight buses, driven around the countryside for two days, and held under armed guard for four nights without food or water in a parking lot in Ban Brdo. Each night the soldiers reportedly took women off the buses to an unknown location at knifepoint. Finally, the group arrived in Caparde, where about 50 followers of Zeljko Arkan separated daughters from their mothers. The rape victims were "aged 15 to 30, with wholesome looks, careful dress, and gentle manners". (New York Newsday)

Abuse of civilians in detention centres

August-September — The CSCE Thomson Mission visited 21 Bosnian camps in late August and early September. "The situation in the camps is more or less disastrous. There can be no thought whatsoever of winter because some of the camps are in meadows under the open sky. Others have no water or heat, and people are lying on a bit of straw on the concrete. Malnutrition, bad medical care and unsatisfactory hygiene conditions are commonplace. People live in constant fear of being beaten or shot in the back of the head. The sick and old prisoners risk freezing to death when winter comes." (Thomson Mission Report)

June — A 16-year-old Muslim interned at Trnopolje camp, after having been raped three times, asked her Serbian rapist, "What are you doing?" He answered, "That's what your people are doing to us as well." After having released this girl, he and his group returned at least twice to the camp for more girls. One of the girls returned at 3.30 a.m. after having been raped by 12 different men that night. (New York Newsday)

May — A 23-year-old Bosnian Muslim from Trnopolje, near Prijedor, was interviewed on 5 October by a Foreign Service officer in an ex-detainee transit facility in Croatia. He had to leave his home on 22 May as part of the Serbian ethnic cleansing operation in northern Bosnia. After living with neighbours for two weeks, he was taken on 9 June to Trnopolje camp.

He stated that prisoners were occasionally allowed to leave Trnopolje camp for half-hour to one-hour periods to search for food in the woods. He explained that a prisoner always had to leave behind something important when he was let out. If he returned late, he would be beaten or killed. If he did not return, he would be shot on sight if and when found.

The ex-detainee stated that one month after his internment, he found the body of a friend in the woods approximately 300 metres from the camp. His friend's throat had been slit. The ex-detainee had seen his friend taken away earlier by a guard named Dragoje Cabic, whom the ex-detainee described as one of the most sadistic guards at Trnopolje. Cabic beat people very often and very brutally. Three weeks after discovering his friend's body, he found in the woods the body of his friend's brother.

The ex-detainee identified the commander of the camp as Major Slobodan Kuruzovic. (Department of State)

May

A 40-year-old Bosnian Muslim from the village of Kozarac was interviewed on 5 October by a Foreign Service officer in an ex-detainee transit facility in Croatia. He described the capture of his village by Serbian irregular military forces and the severe mistreatment and killing of many of its people.

The witness stated that on 24 May, the irregular forces entered his village shooting with tanks and guns. They were met by poorly organized, lightly armed resistance from the villagers, who were compelled to surrender after a full day of fighting. At the outset of the incident, he had worked to evacuate the children and elderly. He hid 140 children and 80 old people in the basement of a house in the town and later began to evacuate them through the woods towards the Croatian border. At first they had a guide, but he later deserted the group in the woods. After spending a night in the woods, the group learned that everyone else in the town had surrendered, and the witness decided that the group should give themselves up also as the best hope of ensuring their safety. Several similar groups that had also fled into the woods gathered in the woods to surrender together, making a combined group of around 3,000 persons, mainly children and the elderly.

The witness said that as the group walked out of the woods onto a road called Carsija Ulica, with white flags held high by about every fiftieth person, they were met by three tanks commanded by Zoran Karlica, a neighbour of the witness. Despite the white flags, the tanks opened fire on the group and many children were killed.

The witness was shortly thereafter taken on a bus to the Keraterm camp, where 120 people spent two nights on the bus parked at the gate of the camp without fresh air or water. On the third day, as the men filed off the bus single file, Serbian soldiers beat them on the back and limbs with police batons. The group spent two nights at Keraterm. On the third day, the witness and many other men were put on buses at 1 a.m., told to keep their heads down, and driven to Omarska camp.

The witness spent 77 days at Omarska, where he was interrogated and beaten eight times. On one occasion, his hands and feet were bound and he was hung from a hook by his hands and raised from the floor. He was beaten by several guards using rifle butts, heavy electrical cables, and homemade batons with small metal balls with sharp spikes. The witness said he was beaten senseless and awoke in a pool of his own blood, the only liquid he had to moisten his mouth.

The witness stated that a young Muslim man from Kozarac who had owned a Suzuki motorcycle was tortured in front of the other prisoners. He was severely beaten all over his body and his teeth were knocked out. The guards then tied one end of a wire tightly around his testicles and tied the other end to the victim's motorcycle. A guard got on the motorcycle and sped off.

The witness said that guards at the camp would pour acid on the fresh wounds of prisoners after some of the public beatings and laugh as the prisoners screamed from pain.

The witness said that prisoners at Omarska had to pass a field as they were herded to the eating area. He stated that there were 10 to 15 new corpses laid out in the field every morning. As prisoners fled into the eating area past a line of guards, the guards would trip the men and beat them on the back, limbs and joints with police batons and heavy cable. Every two days the prisoners received about 100 grams of bread and a small cup of soup with a bit of rice or potato. The witness went from 86 kilograms to 52 during his 77-day confinement.

The witness described the preparations made in the camp before the first journalists arrived. About 200 men in one sleeping room were moved to another room already at overcapacity. They were told to keep their heads down below window level and to keep quiet. There was only enough room for the men to sit with their knees against their chests. The other room was cleaned and 30 new prisoners from Keraterm were put there and shown to reporters.

He identified six guards at the Omarska camp by first name only: Neso (used to work at the Sretno cafe in the Suhi Brod quarter of Kozarac); Ritan; Uros; Daja; Gruban; Zeljko (probably among the camp commanders; drove a green Mercedes). (Department of State)

Late May — A Muslim refugee, a butcher by trade and probably in his early forties, spent 27 days at Luka camp outside Brcko, during which time he saw about 20 soldiers rape a woman in the presence of her child and other camp inmates. During a September interview with a United States Foreign Service officer in Vienna, he claimed that it was general knowledge that young girls were being picked up almost daily and brought to the canteen where they were raped. The girls subsequently "disappeared". (Department of State)

12-28 April A 33-year-old Bosnian Muslim refugee - a machine technician by profession - from Sarajevo and her two children were interned in Manjaca camp near Banja Luka for 16 days. During a 25 September interview with a United States Foreign Service officer in Zagreb, she described her first interrogation: two Serbian camp guards, who called each other Todor and Srbo, beat her and burned her right upper thigh twice with a cattle prod. They raped her in front of her children, a 12-year-old daughter and a 9-year-old son. Afterwards, she bled badly. Her daughter was raped twice. (Department of State)

Wanton destruction and destruction of property

29 May — A 29 May Serb attack on Prijedor destroyed the centuries-old Prohaska mosque and St. Joseph's Roman Catholic church. (New York Newsday)

April-July — All 14 mosques in and around Foca, among them the Aladza - the coloured mosque - built in 1550, were destroyed, as was the Ustikolina mosque near Foca, built in 1448. Thirteen mosques in Mostar, all built between 1528 and 1631, were destroyed.

According to the head of the Islamic community in Zagreb, 200 mosques were destroyed and another 300 damaged between April and late July. The Bosnian Institute in Zurich estimated that, in areas of Serb occupation, 90 per cent of the mosques have been destroyed. (New York Newsday)

Other, including mass forcible expulsion and deportation of civilians

6 October	Serbs forced hundreds of ethnic Muslims - at least six busloads - out of the district of Kotor Varos, south-east of Banja Luka. In addition, they gave ethnic Muslims in Kljuc an ultimatum to leave their district by the morning of 6 October, a deadline that was delayed until 8 October. (Department of State)
3 October	The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) stated on 3 October that "the ICRC is convinced that, under cover of a policy of 'ethnic cleansing', tens of thousands of members of minority groups in areas controlled by the parties are still at the mercy of repressive measures applied locally in accordance with a discriminatory ideology". (ICRC Information Department)
29 September	In the northern Vojvodina town of Subotica, Serbian Radical Party (SRS) regional president Bozidar Vujic declared that his party had formed a paramilitary to "cleanse Subotica of all those who do not recognize Serbia and its political and territorial integrity". SRS leader Vojislav Seselj reportedly was handing out arms to Serbian farmers in Vojvodina as a prelude to efforts to drive out other nationalities. (Department of State)
25 September	About 80 per cent of Sarajevo's 350,000 civilians are without power and running water. Local Serbian commanders have repeatedly refused to permit crews from the water company into Serbian-held areas to repair pumps, clean filters, or replenish chlorine supplies. Without chlorine, engineers have been unable to fight the growing threat of water-borne epidemics. The relay station on Trebevic Mountain that carried telephone calls beyond Sarajevo was switched off by Serbian forces three months ago. (The Washington Post; The New York Times)
July-September	Banja Luka's 30,000 Muslims have been terrorized by bombings, beatings and interrogations, which have resulted in 126 Muslim deaths. Radisav Brdjanin, chief of the local war crisis committee in early September said on television that there was room for only 1,000 Muslims in Banja Luka and the 29,000 others would have to leave, "one way or another". (The Washington Post)
June	Serb forces chartered an 18-car train in an attempt to deport the entire population of Kozluk, Bosnia - some 1,800 people - to Hungary, but Hungary refused to admit them. After four days on board, the villagers were brought to Palic camp. They were told that "this was part of an ethnically pure Serbian region, and it was inconvenient to have a Muslim village at a key road junction". (New York Newsday)

18 March A Serbian woman in Goradze lost her right arm when "Muslim terrorists" threw a hand-grenade in her home in a mixed neighbourhood. (Department of State)